



Energy Assistance Program: Assurance 16

**Energy Conference**

May 19, 2016

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# Assurance 16

## Agenda

- Introduction & Background
- Assurance 16 (A16) Activity Categories
- Proactive Energy Self-Sufficiency
- Patricia Elizondo: Heartland CAA
- Rachel Bagley: Western CAP
- Discussion & Brainstorm
- Program Development



# Assurance 16

## Introduction & Background

- Assurance 16: The LIHEAP statute allows states to spend up to five percent (5%) of their LIHEAP Block Grant funds on “***services encouraging and enabling households to reduce their home energy needs and thereby the need for energy assistance, including needs assessment counseling, and assistance with energy vendors.***”



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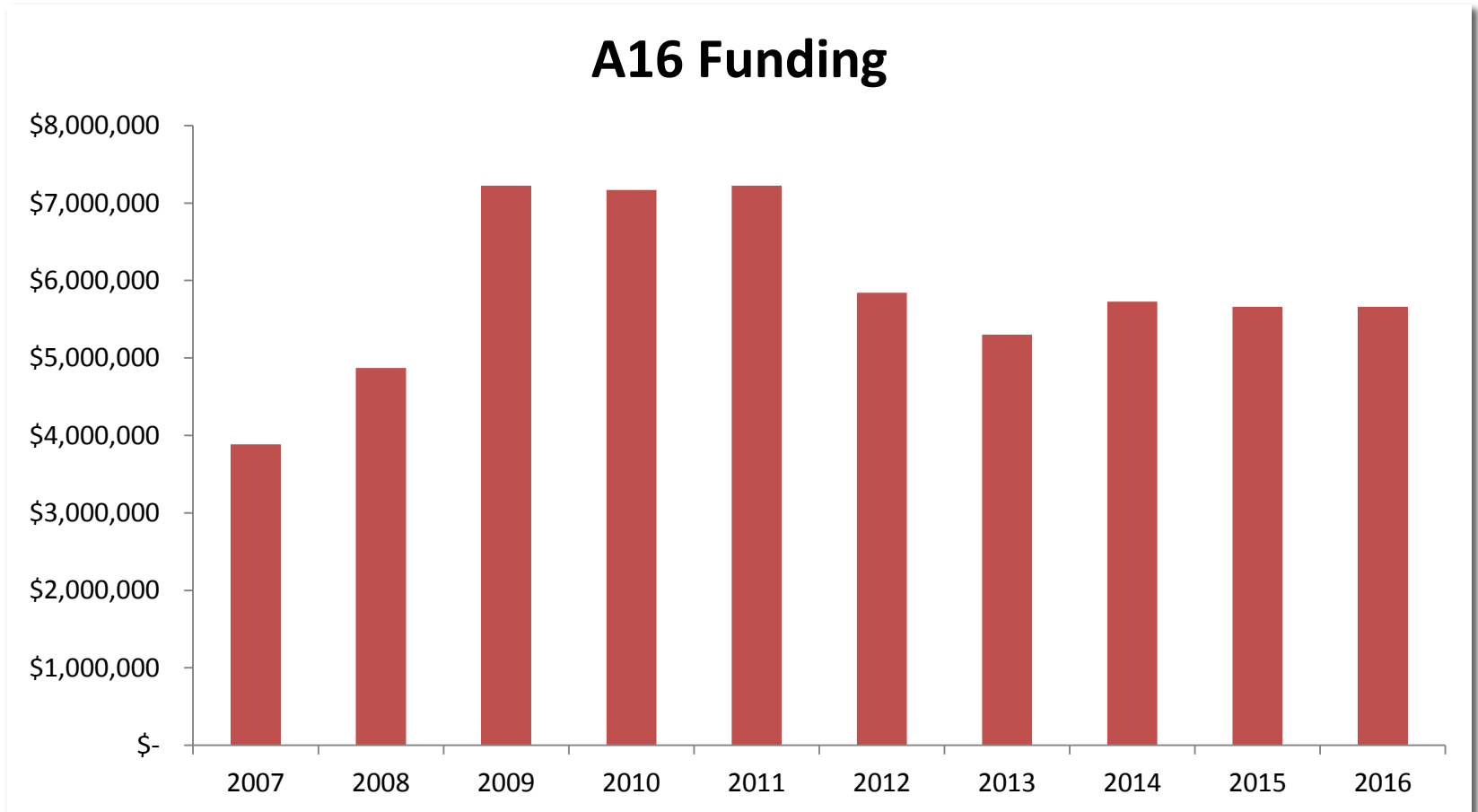
## Introduction & Background

- Historically, A16 in Minnesota has been used for:
  - Outreach
  - Referral and basic case management
  - Advocacy
- Many good things were done, but focus was not very clearly on energy need reduction



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## Introduction & Background





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## Introduction & Background

- From FFY2013 through FFY2015 EAP began a process of substantial change in A16.
- Continue to allow outreach, but have shifted focus more clearly to energy need reduction.
- Encourage community-specific, targeted, and transformational activities.
- Opportunities exist for greater collaboration and coordination with aligned programs.



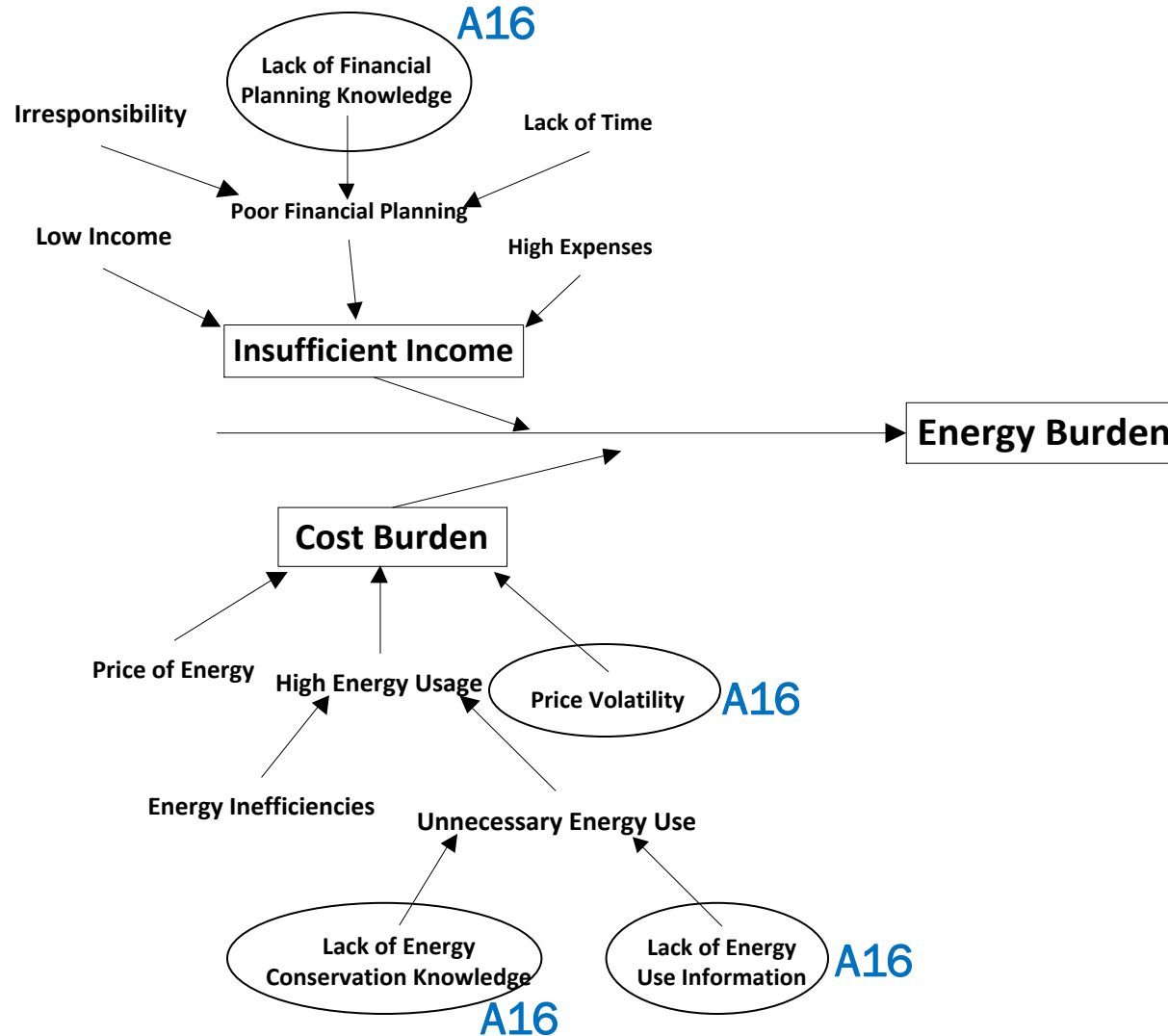
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## Introduction & Background

- Some points to note:
  - For EAP, energy need is not necessarily just energy usage (i.e., it is a function of energy cost and a household's income)
  - Desire coordination with other programs
  - Determine needs at local level (even household level)



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## Two A16 Activity Categories:

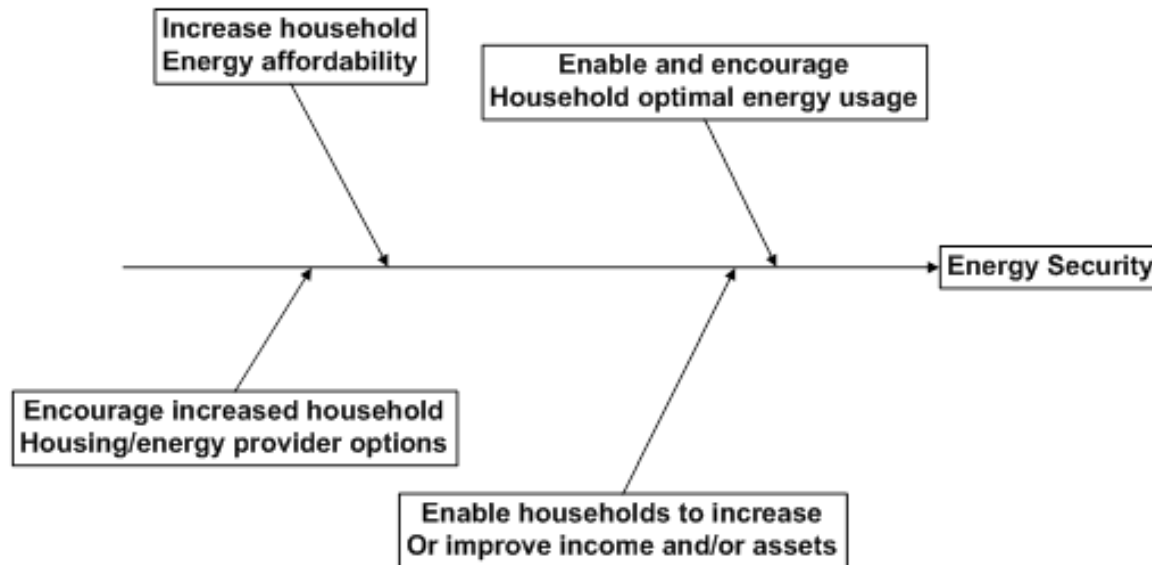
- Outreach
- Energy Self-Sufficiency:
  - Responsive
  - Proactive



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## Energy Self-Sufficiency

- Activities that contribute toward reducing household energy need and enabling energy security by impacting one or more of the following areas:



Energy Self-Sufficiency



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## Energy Self-Sufficiency: Example

Energy Conservation  
Information provided

Increased knowledge

Optimal (efficient/low)  
energy Usage

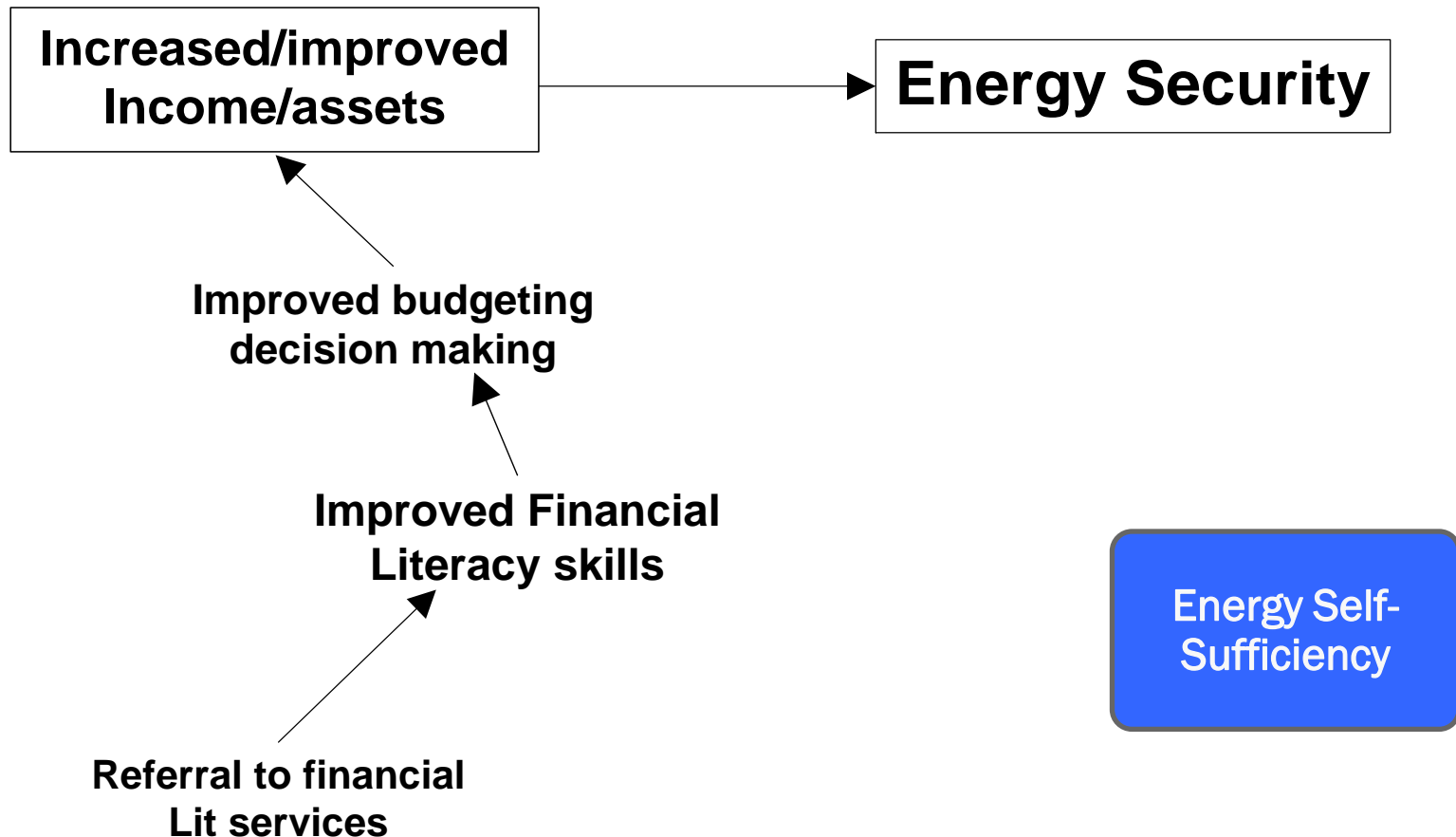
Energy Security

Energy Self-  
Sufficiency



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## Energy Self-Sufficiency: Example





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## Energy Self-Sufficiency (ESS)

- **Responsive vs. Proactive ESS**
  - Difference is primarily in the approach to how activities are conducted
  - Certain specific activities could be conducted for either



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## **Responsive Energy Self-Sufficiency (ESS)**

Activities that are reactive, reflexive, spontaneous, occasional, short-term, and/or less intensive.



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## Proactive Energy Self-Sufficiency (ESS)

Activities that reduce household energy need in a manner that is planned, comprehensive, intentional, deliberate, focused, long-term, and/or intensive.



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## Proactive ESS Plans

- EAP reserves 25% of A16 funds for Proactive ESS
- This is about \$1.25M per program year
- Plans are required for Proactive ESS
- We want you to be creative & innovative





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## Proactive ESS Plans: Example

### Title of activity or program:

Energy conservation education for Seniors

### Description of activity or program:

Selected households will participate in monthly sessions on energy usage and conservation. Sessions will include trips to different locations in the community for training on topics like simple, low-cost energy conservation techniques/home improvements; energy production; and identifying alternative housing options. Participants who complete the course will receive energy conservation kits provided free of charge by the local utility.



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## Proactive ESS: Current Activities

- Case Management
- Energy Conservation Education
  - In-home
  - Classes
- Financial Literacy
- Family Assets for Independence In MN (FAIM)
- Combinations



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## Proactive ESS: Current Activities

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## Proactive ESS: Current Activities

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## Ideas for WX Collaboration/Coordination

- Integrate referrals
- Energy Conservation Education
  - Post-Wx
  - In-home
  - Classes
- Conservation Improvement Program
- Other?



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## Ideas for WX Collaboration/Coordination: Discussion

- In groups, take 10-15 minutes and discuss the following questions:
  - What needs have you wanted to address, but....
    - You didn't have the skills, funding, time to do so?
    - You couldn't because your program's rules/regulations wouldn't allow it?
  - What barriers prevent you from more fully addressing a household's energy burden?
  - What opportunities do you see that go unfulfilled?
  - What strengths do you/your program have?
  - What collaborations have you already done?



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## Ideas for WX Collaboration/Coordination

- Brainstorm
- In groups, come up with a proposal of your own
- Report back in 10-15 minutes